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SP  
11-18-03

MAIL STOP PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 24886

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

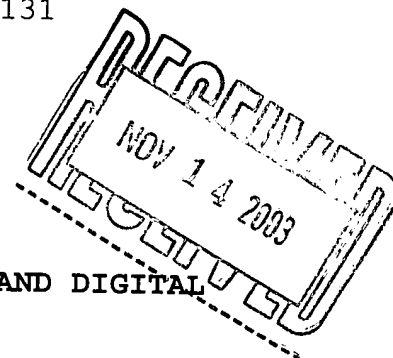
Group Art Unit: 2131

Masayoshi NISHITANI and Takayuki SUGAHARA

Serial No. 10/046,909

Filed: January 17, 2002

For: **DIGITAL WATERMARKING APPARATUS AND ITS METHOD AND DIGITAL  
WATERMARK REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND ITS METHOD**



TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner:

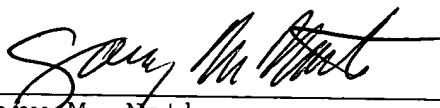
Submitted herewith for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are the following:

- (1) European Search Report
- (2) Information Disclosure Statement and one (1) reference
- (3) PTO Form 1449

Please charge any required fee, or credit any overpayment, in connection with this matter to deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,  
**NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC**

By:

  
Gary M. Nath  
Registration No. 26,965  
Marvin C. Berkowitz  
Registration No. 47,421

Date: November 12, 2003  
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MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Attorney Docket No. 24886

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Commissioner:

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.98. Please note the following particulars:

[NOTE: One only of items a, b, c, and d must be checked.]

- ☒ a. The enclosed statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.
- ☐ b. The enclosed statement is being filed after a first action on the merits but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113, or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311.

The enclosed statement is accompanied by [check one]:

- ☐ i. a certification in part (e) below as specified in 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), or
- ☐ ii. a check in the amount required by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).
- ☐ c. The enclosed statement is being filed after the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113, or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311, but before payment of the issue fee.
- ☐ Certification report(e) below; and
- ☐ a check in the amount as required by 1.17(p).
- ☐ d. The enclosed statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(i), for placement in the file.
- ☐ e. Certification [Check one] [Certification is required only if box (b)(i) or box (c) is checked.]

[ ] I hereby certify that each item of information contained in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement,

or

[ ] I hereby certify that no item of information in the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

or

[ ] Appropriate certification is attached.

[x] f. If no check is enclosed and a fee is due in connection with this communication or if the check enclosed is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

[x] g. Copies of the documents are attached herewith with a completed Form PTO-1449.

or

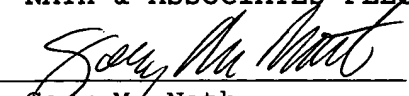
[ ] Copies of the documents are not attached as allowed under CFR 1.98(d)(1)(2). The earlier application is identified as:

The Examiner is respectfully requested to cite the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 in the next Office Action. In so doing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initial in the space adjacent to the listing of each document on the Form PTO-1449, and return a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication to Applicants, to confirm that these documents have been considered by the Examiner and made of record in this application.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this application, kindly telephone the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC

By:

  
Gary M. Nath

Registration No. 26,965  
Marvin C. Berkowitz  
Registration No. 47,421  
Customer No. 20529

Date: November 12, 2003

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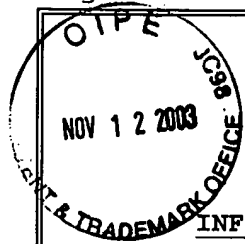
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FORM PTO-1449

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty Docket  
24886Serial No.  
10/046,909Applicant  
NISHITANI et al.Filing Date  
January 17, 2002Group Art Unit  
2131

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Trans-lation
	AL	EP 0 845 758 A2	3/6/1998	EPO			Yes
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						

## OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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	AS		
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NOV 13 2003

Technology Center 2100

Examiner

Date Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609.  
 Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.  
 Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.